

J1064 U.S. PTO
12/26/01

12-28-01

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RICK B. YEAGER
ATTORNEY AT LAW

10805 Mellow Lane
Austin, Texas 78759
(512) 918-1237
FAX (512) 918-1238

jc879 U.S. PTO
10/02/142
12/26/01

December 26, 2001

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are:

- (1) Specification (16 pages)
- (2) Thirty-six (36) Claims-- 5 independent, 31 dependent
- (3) Drawings (10 sheets)
- (4) Declaration and Power of Attorney
- (5) Express Mail Certificate
- (6) Return Receipt Post Card

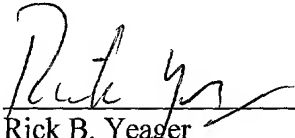
A check in the amount of \$598.00 is enclosed to cover the filing fee. The fee has been calculated as shown below:

Basic fee- small entity	\$ 370.00
Excess independent claims (2X42)	\$ 84.00
Excess claims (16X9)	\$ 144.00
Total	\$ 598.00

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 C.F.R. " 1.10 and 1.53, applicant respectfully requests that this application be assigned a serial number and a filing date of December 26, 2001, the date upon which the application was mailed to the Patent and Trademark Office by Express Mail.

Respectfully submitted,

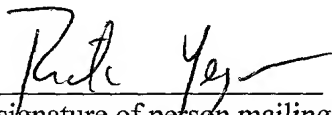
Date: December 26, 2001



Rick B. Yeager
10805 Mellow Lane
Austin, Texas 78759
Phone (512) 918-1237
Fax (512) 918-1238
Reg. No. 39,434

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Express Mail label No.: ET 567353²⁷² US Date of Deposit: December 26, 2001

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date shown above and is addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Box New Appl., P.O. Box 2327, Washington, D.C. 22202.


(signature of person mailing correspondence)


Rick
Cynthia Yeager

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